

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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USEEC AND USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (OVERVIEW COMMITTEE)

REF: A. USUN 2405 (NOTAL); B. USUN 2540 (NOTAL);
C. BRUSSELS 12094

1. WE APPRECIATE USUN'S THOUGHTS IN REF A AND AGREE THAT
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WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEEK SOME COMMON GROUND WITH
THE G-77 ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
SHOULD OPERATE, AS IT IS INDEED OUR HOPE THAT THE
COMMITTEE SHOULD REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL AND PLAY A CON-
STRUCTIVE ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/
SOUTH DIALOGUE. UNLESS WE REACH SOME COMMON GROUND BY
BRIDGING THE VERY REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED

COUNTRIES AND THE G-77 OVER THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE, IT WOULD SEEM INEVITABLE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL FAIL IN ITS PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A UNIQUE FORUM, DISTINCT BOTH FROM EXISTING UN POLICY BODIES AND NEGOTIATING FORUMS. THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL SURELY BE A WATERSHED. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN WEO COUNTRIES AND THE G-77 LEADERSHIP BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER COULD PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SETTING THE SCENE FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO FIND SOME MID-POSITION ON WHICH BOTH DCS AND LDCS MIGHT BE ABLE TO AGREE -- AND DRAWING FROM USUN'S THOUGHTS IN REF A -- WE WISH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS (STARTING WITH VINCI GROUP) ON THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

A. EACH SESSION OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY THOSE SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN THE PRECEDING SESSION WHERE SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE INTERVENING PERIOD THAT MIGHT TO SOME DEGREE BE CREDITED TO THE AIRING OF VIEWS IN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF, INCLUDING PROGRESS THAT MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED IN SPECIALIZED FORUMS.

B. EACH SESSION SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT, AS A RESULT OF ITS DISCUSSION OF ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA, TO IDENTIFY A FEW TOPICS WHERE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (DCS AND LDCS ALIKE) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE PREPARED TO INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO RESTUDY THEIR POSITIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITIONS OF OTHERS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMITTEE. THESE COULD INCLUDE NOT ONLY OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS CURRENTLY BEFORE CERTAIN SPECIALIZED UN BODIES BUT ALSO ANY NEW IDEAS THAT MIGHT BE BROACHED IN THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. THE TOPICS IDENTIFIED SHOULD BE STRICTLY SELECTED, AVOIDING ANY ACROSS-THE-BOARD APPROACH. THE NEXT SUBSEQUENT SESSION WOULD THEN, IN TURN, ASSESS THE RESULTS OF ANY STUDY AND/OR RECONSIDERATION ON THE PART OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AS EXPLAINED BY THEM IN THAT SESSION, AGAIN INCLUDING ANY RESULTS THAT MAY HAVE BORNE FRUIT IN THE INTERIM IN SPECIALIZED BODIES.

C. COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT AGREE TO IDENTIFY ISSUES OF THIS SORT IF THEY HAVE NO INTENTION WHATEVER OF RECONSIDERING THEIR POSITIONS. THIS WOULD SOON BE SPOTTED AS A DELAYING TACTIC. BY THE SAME TOKEN, IT SHOULD CONCURRENTLY BE UNDERSTOOD THAT A COMMITMENT TO RECONSIDER A QUESTION IN NO WAY REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE ONE'S POSITION.

D. THIS PROCESS WOULD NOT CALL FOR THE ADVANCE PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES OR GROUPS

AND WOULD PRECLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF DRAFTS PURPORTING TO REFLECT THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSION BUT IN FACT PROMOTING THE POSITIONS OF ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER. IT WOULD CALL FOR A FINAL AGREED REPORT SUMMARIZING THE RANGE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED AND THE DEGREE OF CONVERGENCE THAT MIGHT HAVE EMERGED IN THE DISCUSSION, BUT THE REPORT ITSELF SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A VEHICLE FOR NEGOTIATING CONCESSIONS AND COMMITMENTS. THE REPORT WOULD ALSO IDENTIFY THOSE POINTS MENTIONED IN A AND B ABOVE.

E. IN ORDER FOR THIS PROCESS TO WORK PROPERLY, NOT ONLY THE DCS BUT ALSO AS MANY OF THE LDCS AS POSSIBLE SHOULD SEND POLICY OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS.

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3. THE ABOVE PROCESS, AS WE SEE IT, WOULD ENABLE THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY PAST PROGRESS AS WELL AS AREAS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRESS WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE NEGOTIATING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES BELONGING TO THE SPECIALIZED BODIES. IT WOULD BE ABLE TO RECORD THIS IN AN AGREED DOCUMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDING NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE LANGUAGE OF COMMITMENTS THAT CANNOT BE MADE.

4. MEANWHILE, WE WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WHICH THE SEPTEMBER SESSION OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MIGHT IDENTIFY AS HAVING BEEN ADVANCED BY THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE MAY SESSION, AS WELL AS THOSE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER SESSION ON WHICH PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES MIGHT AGREE TO STUDY OR RE-EXAMINE THEIR POSITIONS. CONCERNING THE LATTER, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE APPEARS TO US MORE PROMISING THAN INDUSTRIALIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT CREATION PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION.

5. USUN IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THESE POINTS IN THE VINCI (WEO) GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 21, MAKING CLEAR THAT THESE COMPRISE AT THIS STAGE SIMPLY IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION RATHER THAN A FIRM U.S. POSITION. WE WOULD OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN THE REACTIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AS WELL AS ANY ALTERNATIVE IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE. ANY SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE ON SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS THAT MIGHT BE IDENTIFIED IN THE SEPTEMBER SESSION ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPHS 2A AND B ABOVE WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.

6. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY G-77 REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER SESSION WILL OF COURSE BE ESSENTIAL TO ANY AGREEMENT ON THE CONDUCT OF THAT SESSION. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORWEGIAN IDEA (ORIGINATING WITH JAZAIRY) OF AN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF ABOUT TEN OR TWELVE DC AND LDC LEADERS STRIKES US FAVORABLY. WE SUGGEST YOU DISCREETLY ENCOURAGE THE NORWEGIANS TO PROCEED WITH THEIR IDEA REPORTED REFTEL B OF HELPING ORGANIZE A DINNER IN GENEVA DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF ECOSOC IN JULY WHEN HIGH LEVEL PERSONALITIES WILL BE THERE IN GENERAL DEBATE. WE GATHER JAZAIRY WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE US AND OTHER DC VIEWS COULD BE DRAWN TOGETHER MORE CLOSELY PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. WE WOULD ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS DURING THE COURSE OF THE ECOSOC SESSION, TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY CO-ORDINATED BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THE G-77 LEADERSHIP BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. VANCE

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